

From: [Keener, Bill](#)
To: [Mogharabi, Nahal](#)
Subject: RE: Controversial Ariz. project closer to winning federal permit
Date: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 2:28:42 PM

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

Bill

From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 2:24 PM
To: Keener, Bill
Subject: FW: Controversial Ariz. project closer to winning federal permit

Hi Bill,

Below is the updated Rosemont desk statement that includes edits from water. Jason is out until next week, so he may have some edits when he comes back, but in the mean time, we can use the below if we get any inquiries.

Thanks!

Nahal

DESK STATEMENT:

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

Nahal Mogharabi
Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Los Angeles
D: 213-244-1815 | C: 2(b) (6) | E:mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov

From: Marincola, JamesPaul
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 2:13 PM
To: Mogharabi, Nahal
Cc: Brush, Jason
Subject: RE: Controversial Ariz. project closer to winning federal permit

Hey Nahal,

I worked with staff to modify the desk statement accordingly:

DESK STATEMENT:

(b) (5)

[Redacted text block containing approximately 15 lines of blacked-out content]

[Redacted text block containing 2 lines of blacked-out content]

Thanks,

Jamie Marincola
Water Division
US EPA, Region IX
San Francisco, CA
415-972-3520

From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 12:08 PM
To: Marincola, JamesPaul
Subject: FW: Controversial Ariz. project closer to winning federal permit

Hi Jamie,

Here's the desk statement:

DESK STATEMENT:

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Nahal Mogharabi
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Los Angeles
D: 213-244-1815 | C: 2(b) (6) | E:mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov

From: Plenys, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 11:28 AM
To: Mogharabi, Nahal; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill
Subject: Controversial Ariz. project closer to winning federal permit

[Article on Rosemont with link to the Admin FEIS below...](#)

From: Gerdes, Jason
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 11:24 AM
To: Ardillo, Anne; Appleton, Zac; Sachs, Carol; Mulvihill, Carolyn; Jessop, Carter; meek, clifton; Dunning, Connell; Munson, James; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Blonn, Jennifer; Vitulano, Karen; Goforth, Kathleen; McPherson, Ann; Prijatel, Jean; Sysum, Scott; Skophammer, Stephanie; Plenys, Thomas; Kelly, ThomasP
Subject: Controversial Ariz. project closer to winning federal permit

Piece on Rosemont, with a couple of mentions of Jared and Jason Brush...

MINING:

Controversial Ariz. project closer to winning federal permit

Manuel Quinones, E&E reporter
The Forest Service appears poised to approve Augusta Resource Corp.'s proposed Rosemont copper, silver and molybdenum mine about 30 miles south of Tucson, Ariz.
But the agency's preliminary final environmental impact statement -- delivered to more than a dozen

cooperating federal, state and local agencies -- concluded that the project will have an impact on environmental and cultural resources.

Its footprint along the Santa Rita Mountains would affect about 1,000 acres of private land, more than 3,600 acres of Coronado National Forest land and 75 acres of state land.

"Proposed mine activities, from pre-mining through final reclamation and closure, would bury, remove, or damage historic properties, including traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, traditional use areas, archaeological sites, historical structures, districts, and landscapes," said the document.

The Forest Service, in a draft environmental impact statement released in 2011, picked a development alternative that would have degraded air quality but worked to protect waterways, habitats and cultural sites. The latest draft does more to limit emissions.

"In response to comments on the DEIS and that previous modeling indicated that several alternatives, including the preferred alternative, would not meet air quality standards, a number of mitigation and 13 monitoring measures were added to the project," the agency said.

In response to comments, the preliminary final EIS has updated information on environmental mitigation and bonding. The document also includes a stormwater management redesign and the relocation of a scenic trail.

"This year will be a transformative year for Augusta and our project partners as we move from permitting into construction at Rosemont," said Augusta CEO Gil Clausen. "Our team is fully prepared and ready to execute on its development. Project financing is moving rapidly to conclusion and detailed construction engineering and procurement is well advanced."

Environmental and community advocates, however, have worked for years to stop the mine. They accuse Augusta of having financial difficulties and of making overly optimistic permitting projections.

They also say the mine would harm plant and animal species, including the jaguar, spotted in the Santa Rita Mountains ([Greenwire](#), Dec. 21, 2012). The Center for Biological Diversity has petitioned the government to increase protections for species in the mine site.

Rosemont executives, however, say the mine will not "jeopardize the continued existence" of protected species and that the project will not lead to the "adverse modification" of designated critical habitats.

"The Rosemont Mine Plan of Operations and associated mitigation programs are comprehensive, progressive, and thorough," said Augusta Senior Vice President Jamie Sturgess.

But some community leaders remain unconvinced.

"If Augusta and its investors believe they can steamroll this community with platitudes and promises and pressure regulators into issuing permits so they can enrich its investors, they are in for a rude awakening," said Pima County Supervisor Ray Carroll (R) in a recent statement.

The Forest Service, much to the chagrin of mine opponents, has said its options are limited with respect to whether the project moves forward.

"Rosemont Copper is entitled to conduct operations that are reasonably incidental to exploration and development of mineral deposits on its mining claims pursuant to applicable U.S. laws and regulations and is asserting its right under the General Mining Law to mine and remove the mineral deposit subject to regulatory laws," said the preliminary final EIS.

Cooperating agencies have 30 days to review the document, which the Forest Service stresses is not yet final. One key agency relying on the study is the Army Corps of Engineers, which must provide a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit for the mine to move forward.

U.S. EPA, which works with the Army Corps on the 404 permits, has expressed concerns about the project. Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Pacific Southwest regional administrator, said last year that Rosemont could face permitting problems.

And in a letter earlier this year, EPA Regional Wetlands Office Supervisor Jason Brush expressed concerns about Rosemont's Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.

"In summary," he wrote, "we believe implementation of the [plan] would fail to fully compensate for the project's impacts on regulated waters."

[Click here](#) to read a preliminary draft of the final environmental impact statement.

Jason Gerdes

U.S. EPA Region 9

Environmental Review Office (CED-2)

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 947-4221